WINCHESTER NEWS
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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us — Wei Han raising profile of Chinese residents in Winchester

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Wei Han enjoys coffee at Caffé Nero. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Wei Han somehow fits his many volunteer positions in with his full-time job in database management. The Amberwood Drive resident was the first Chinese immigrant to be elected to Town Meeting in 2012.

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"When I learned about Town Meeting," he says, "and that the town is run entirely by volunteers, I had to join. The concept of self-governing is unknown in China."

Han helped organize the Winchester Chinese Network and invited members of the Select Board and other groups to come and talk to the children at the Winchester School of Chinese Culture.

Han emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 when he enrolled in Gonzaga University. He moved to Winchester in 2003.

"After I moved to town, I ran into Gloria Legvold and Sandy Thompson and they told me about their Multicultural Network (now called the Network for Social Justice)," he says. "At that time, the town was almost all white and I say hats off to the founders of the network."

Han is now on its board of directors.

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And last year when some Chinese elders were sitting in front of the Jenks Center, he says, "People welcomed them inside. Now, the Jenks offers classes in Chinese calligraphy."

Han's daughter Nicole's organization, Heritage Bridge, pays for the materials.

"Chinese calligraphers live 10 years longer than the average Chine individuals," he adds.

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In case the volunteer jobs aren't enough, Han is also on the board of WinCAM.

"WinCAM is a hidden gem; people don't realize how much work they do," he says.

And then there's another board he sits on — the Winchester Community Music School.

"They're building a diversified community," says Han. "Chinese-Americans want to do their part."

During COVID — when there was a shortage of protective gear — many of the residents got supplies from their Chinese relatives and delivered it to local hospitals, rehab facilities, nursing homes and other facilities.

"One woman put masks outside her house for folks, and she brought some to the Stop & Shop to be given out during senior shopping hours," he says.

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Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a ha
already discovered the gene
Winchester residents. That's why she and her

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Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in “gently used children’s clothing.

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Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women’s History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester’s School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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